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NORTH AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS

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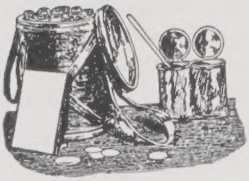
From the Editor's Desk



Two features of the *Voice of the Turtle* have inspired most of the public comment which was received by this journal in 1965. These were the "Coin Topics" so ably edited by Mr. Woods and the "Numismatic Primer" which has even received the high compliment of being reprinted in other numismatic publications.

The "Primer" is our attempt to bring basic material to the fore for immediate use by newer collectors and students in the field. It will henceforth be edited by Mr. Carr who can be depended upon to publish only material upon which the reader can rely.

There are two areas which we feel need clarification, not only for the neophyte, but for many experienced collectors as well. These are: the correct historical and political interpretations of legends found on Roman Imperial coins and a study of the ancient methods of minting coins.

A review of the literature available on reading Roman coins indicates that it falls into two categories. One is the group of greatly simplified versions which present false or distorted pictures and in the other group are the advanced texts which assume a knowledge on the part of the reader not always attained by the average collector. Neither is, therefore, quite satisfactory, and a thorough treatment of the correct reading and interpretation of Roman official coins will be useful to a large number of those who work in this field.

This series of articles will also serve to complement those on Greek Numismatic Epigraphy which have as their aim the clarification of Greek coin legends.

A subject which is even more simplified and consequently more distorted is that of ancient dies and minting techniques. Here again, the existing literature presents only inaccurate descriptions which mislead, or worse, present false information. The serious studies in the field are not easily obtainable unless one has access to a fairly complete library.

Moreover, the whole subject is one in which there are few facts which are completely agreed upon. Our presentation will carefully cite the appropriate bibliographic sources and will attempt to divide the body of material into that which is accepted fact and that which is hypothetical conclusion. From this the reader can be led to form his own theories.

Thus in 1966, with the presentation of material on ancient coining methods, there will come into print for the first time,

a thorough and carefully prepared treatment of this very important subject. Two major problems of ancient numismatics which every historian would love to solve hinge on the study of ancient dies. These are, how many coins could be struck from a die and how many individual dies were used in any given issue. Were we able to determine this, a tremendous insight into ancient economics would be possible.

"Coin Topics" will continue to present interesting background material on coins. This feature presents an opportunity for our readers to contribute. A century of publication would be insufficient to relate the story of more than a fraction of ancient coin types. Each person involved with ancient coins could reward himself with the new knowledge that preparation of an article would bring him and his associates by contributing this knowledge to us all.

"Coin Topics" will also continue to bring unpublished coins and variants to the attention of our readers. There are, in the collections of this country, dozens of coins which have not been entered in the major catalogs. The publication of these coins is important to the growth of numismatics.

By means of the continuation and improvement of these two features, the *Turtle* continues to render a continuing service to the entire field of numismatic scholarship.

JOHN E. HARTMANN, Editor

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GREEKS AND BARBARIANS

The Numismatic Evidence for Greek Contact With Barbarian Europe

by LLOYD R. LAING*

Towards the end of the eighth century BC, Greeks, probably Euboeans from Pithekoussai and Kyme, had established trading contacts with southern Gaul. Here, at places like Marseilles, Saint Marcel and Hyeres, Greek pottery dating from the eighth and early seventh century has been found.[1] This was not the first time that traders from the classical world had established contacts with their barbarian neighbors, since many centuries earlier the Mycenaeans had traded with Britain, Bohemia, Italy, Germany and even Scandinavia in their search for metal.

If the theory put forward by Professor Hawkes and Dr. Smith is accepted, it seems probable that the traders who came to Gaul opened an overland route to Britain, which at this time was still in the bronze age. In all probability, the commodity sought was tin.[2]

About 600 BC, Greeks from the city of Phocaea in Ionia founded the city of Massalia (Marseilles). During the sixth century the city flourished and developed a vigorous trade. Other Greek settlements like Enserune sprang up. Local pottery was decorated using the "multiple brush," a Greek device. The native inhabitants of southern Gaul welcomed the material culture which the Greeks introduced, particularly wine, for it was the Massiliote Greeks who introduced the vine into southern France. Native pottery found at sites such as Mt. Garou show the native material of the sixth century was supported by Greek, Etruscan and Phoenecian imports, with the Greek pottery becoming predominant as the years progress.[3] It is to the sixth century that the earliest coins of Massalia are ascribed.

THE AURIOL FIND.[4]

In 1867 a huge hoard of silver coins was discovered at Auriol, near Marseilles, containing about 2130 uninscribed obols and small denominations. The reverses of these pieces bear incuse punchmarks while the obverses display a wide variety of types. Similar coins have been found at Volterra (in Etruria), Rosa, Ampurias, Morella and elsewhere in Spain and at St. Remy in France. These fall into two major classes: those with animal foreparts as types, and those with a profile or facing human or mythological head. These coins are of the greatest importance in the study of the early economic history of Gaul especially if they were struck there and not imported from Asia Minor.

It is not easy to determine where the coins were struck. Although the weights vary they appear to be struck on the Ionian standard and some of the coins apparently are of Phocaean origin. Coins of Aegina and Velia also appear in

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the hoard. Another group are of high standards of workmanship and have types which relate them to Ionian cities. The reminder are of crude workmanship and have no parallels in East Greece. These are assigned therefore to Massalia on both stylistic and metallic grounds since they are silver rather than electrum.

The second problem raised by these coins is their place in the chronological sequence. In the sixth century the major powers in the west Mediterranean were Carthage, Greece and Etruria. Etruria joined forces with Carthage and in 540 BC at the battle of Alalia the Phocaean Greeks were decisively defeated. The parent city also fell, and Villiard has demonstrated that this date is the termination of Greek pottery at Massalia after which it is supplanted by local material.

Two coins from the Auriol Hoard (scale 2:1)

Following the disaster at Alalia, Carthage apparently cut off the sea route through Gibralter and as a result the Greeks in Southern Gaul had to find an overland trade route. It is quite possible that the route now employed was the same as that used by the earlier traders in the eighth century.

The basic problem of the archaeological evidence for the sea route to Britain before 540 need not concern us here, though it should be pointed out that this evidence is based on the notched shields found in Spain[5] and is d'sputed. In any event, Massalia after 540 re-opened her trade contacts with Britain and the North by an overland route. The evidence for this route will be discussed in a future section. Suffice it here to state that the Auriol hoard contains coins which cannot be dated prior to 540.[6]

This then gives us a vague terminus ante quem for the coins, but still to be determined is how much later the coins can be dated. Fortunately some of the coins can be closely

dated. These are advanced stylistically to a point by which a provenence of 550 to 500 is logical and realistic.

A date post quem can be placed at 480 B.C., for at this time Massalia began issuing coins with types on both obverse and reverse. The hoard coins could have been struck this late since there are parallels in carefully dated Spanish hoards. It should not be surprising that such a large variety of coins could have been issued by Massalia in a space of less than fifty years if one considers the economic importance of the city, or as a parallel the varieties issued by Athens for instance, during the period of the "Wappenmunzen."

The significant fact of this hoard is this. The coins may be related to the period when Massalia was conducting a vigorous trade with the native inhabitants of Gaul and Britain.[7] Some of the coins appear on stylistic grounds not to have been issued at Massalia but are rather barbarous imitations of the Massaliote coins struck by local tribes. The significance of these coins will be the topic of the next section of this paper.

NOTES:

[1] P. Jacobsthal & E. Neuffer, *Prehistoire* II:1 (1933) pp. 1-64 ff.

[2] C.F.C. Hawakes & M. Smith, "On Some Buckets and Cauldrons of the Bronze and Early Iron Ages," *Antiquaries Journal*, Vol. XXXVII (1957) p. 176

[3] J. Boardman, *The Greeks Overseas*, London (1964) p. 223 ff.

[4] S. P. Noe, *Bibliography of Greek Coin Hoards*, NNM #78 (1937) p. 107 provides the bibliography on the Auriol Hoard. For further discussions see: E. Babelon, *Traite Des Monnaie Grecques Et Romaines*, II (1907) p. 1582 and more recently Frank Villard, *La Ceramique Grecque De Marseilles*, (1960) p. 97 ff.

[5] H. Hencken, "Herzsprung Shields and Greek Trade," *American Journal of Archaeology*, Vol. LIV (1950) p. 125

[6] Seltman did not agree, cf. *Greek Coins* (1955) pp. 79-80

[7] For preliminary discussion see Boardman, *op. cit.* and also J. Filip, *Celtic Civilization and Its Heritage*, Prague, (1960) p. 28 ff.

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GREEK NUMISMATIC EPIGRAPHY IV

by John E. Hartmann

(Continued from V. of T. 1965, p. 204)

Special mention must be made here, I believe, of some of the special long and pompous formulae used by the dynasty of the Arsacidae of Parthia (248-47 BC-228 AD. A complete listing is available in Head, *Historia Numorum*, pp. 819-822). The study of the royal inscriptions on Parthian coinage can indicate to the student the gradual expansion of epithets and titles for kings and dynasts, and the competition therein which resulted in a situation in which even ligatures and abbreviations would not permit the entire titles to be fit onto the surface of a coin.

The founder of the dynasty, Arsaces, did not issue any coins, but his son, Tiridates I, used his father's portrait on his coins with the simple inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ The title of king was first introduced by *his* son Arsaces and then we have the modest inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ But after his death in 191 BC, the epithet race was on for his descendants.

Artabanus I (128-123 BC) is the true originator of the big inscription. On his coins we read:

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ
ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΟΥ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Of the Great King Arsaces, Philadelphus (and) Philhellene

The epithet *Philhellene* became a standard one for kings from this time on with few exceptions. It should be noted that all the kings of the Parthian dynasty used the name Arsaces on their coins, regardless of their own given names.

Not content with being only a great king, Mithradates III (57-54 BC) decided to become more glorious than his predecessors and originated the following inscription:

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ
ΚΑΙ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Of the Great King of Kings, Arsaces, the Just, the Noble and Philhellene

Or sometimes he used this one:

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΟΝΤΟΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥΟΣ
ΕΥΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Of the Master (and King) of Kings, Arsaces, Son of a Noble Father, the Just, the Noble and Philhellene

The winner of the epithet race, though, was Tiridates II (26 BC) as may be seen from the following:

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΑΥΤΟΚΡΑΤΟ(ΡΟΣ)
ΦΙΛΟΡΩΜΑΙΟ(Υ) ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Of the King of Kings, Arsaces, the Benefactor, Emperor, Friend of the Romans, Noble (and) Philhellene

Tiridates II here added the epithet *Philoromaios* which

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ought to be two words. But the desperate die cutter was hard pressed to put all of the glorious inscription onto a coin so he was forced to omit the last three letters of *Emperor*, and the final letter of *Philoromaios*. We do not know if the die cutter met with punishment for his impiety, but we meet no other such clipped inscriptions in the coins of his successors. Instead they returned to somewhat shorter inscriptions with only seven, instead of eight, words!

Inscriptions on Coins of Greek City States and Confederations from the Early Fourth Century to the Late Hellenistic Period

In examining earlier the purpose and formula of Greek coin inscriptions, we had the opportunity also to examine the ethnic inscription in both its shortened and complete forms. But there are of course some additional types of inscriptions which will be discussed here.

Names of persons other than kings appear regularly on the coinage of the Greek city states, together with the ethnic, but sometimes as the sole inscription. With the exception of dynasts and minor rulers who couldn't or didn't wish to add the title of king to their names, it is known that names of persons who were elected as archons or generals or mint officials appear on a number of coin series minted by Greek city states. This type of inscription also survives in the royal Hellenistic coinages, but only in the form of monograms or initials.

This type of inscription is extremely valuable for the scholars who study local histories of the city states and is also an area in which numismatic epigraphy can help in the study and dating of other inscriptions as well as benefiting the science of numismatics in the dating of coins from references in ancient writers and historians.

As an example of such studies I would like to cite several recent contributions in this field.

The study of the late Hellenistic tetrobols of Kos by John Kroll (ANS *Museum Notes* 11, 1964, pp. 81-117) is almost the unique source for the names of the *Prostatai* of the island of Kos in the period ca. 145-88 BC. Future students working on the history of Kos now have a valuable list of names of officials who may possibly be mentioned in other epigraphical sources. Thus the coin inscriptions can indicate a date for the inscriptions on stone, or conversely, may be dated by them.

Beginning with an unpublished inscription carved on the chest of a monumental funerary marble lion found in the area of the ancient city of Thebes in Boeotia, Stephen Koumanoudes (*Voice of the Turtle* 4, 1965, pp. 101-102) proved that the FASTIAS of the inscription was the same as the FAST (IAS) mentioned as a boeotarch on Theban coins. Later he also discovered that the same boeotarch was mentioned

in the text of the *Hellenica Oxyrhynchia* (XVII. 1 and 2). As a result we might have a better dating for the coin issue of Thebes marked with the name FAST(IAS) than the presently accepted ca. 379-338 BC.

The study of the archon names and the dates on the Athenian New Style coinage has by now contributed a great deal to the study of the Attic calendar and the dating and restoration of many epigraphical documents and the Athenian archon lists of the period after 196/5 BC. admits the well known epigraphist B. D. Meritt in his book *The Athenian Year* (Berkeley 1961). But this is not all. In the same book an entire chapter (pp. 180-191) is called "Coins and the Calendar" and the valuable contributions of numismatic epigraphy to the other branches of Greek epigraphy are plainly stated and recorded. The student of numismatic epigraphy must always remember that this area of study was first opened to research by a numismatist, George Macdonald, with his article *The Amphora Letters on the Coins of Athens* (1899).

A complete list of the city states on the issues of which appear the names of archons or monetary magistrates is neither necessary nor of any particular help to the student of Greek numismatic epigraphy. In all cases of such inscriptions on coins, reference must be made to *Head's Historia Numorum* and the other major numismatic references, as well as to the volumes of the series *Inscriptiones Graecae* published to date. Since, in this special area of coin inscriptions, new and unpublished names can turn up at any time on the silver or bronze coins of any ancient Greek city state, the numismatist must be very careful with any coin which he suspects to be due the honours accorded a unique specimen.

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THE THREE GORDIANI

by Bruce W. Knowlton

The chronological events of the year 238, while fairly well delineated as to sequence, may never be precisely dated to the satisfaction of all scholars. No less than seven men bore the imperial titles in that year, three of whom had the common name of Marcus Antonius Gordianus. Our purpose here is not to deal with the fascinating chronological problems, but to discuss the distinguishing characteristics of the coins of the three Gordiani.

The year 238 opened with Maximinus reigning as emperor associated with his son, Maximus, who was his Caesar and designated successor.[1] According to the literary sources (primarily the Augustan History) Maximinus and his son were regarded at Rome as barbarians and tyrants.

In March a conspiracy was hatched in Africa among the landed gentry who induced the 80 year old-pro-consul, M. Antonius Gordianus to declare himself emperor. Gordian associated his son of the same name with him as co-augustus and together the two men prepared to support their claims to the throne.

The Senate quickly recognized the two Gordiani and to promote their cause in Italy, appointed twenty men (XX Virs) to secure Italy and the Capital against Maximinus. Within a month after declaring themselves, the two Gordiani were dead, the younger in battle with a supporter of Maximinus, the elder a suicide upon hearing of his son's demise.

Two of the XX Virs, Balbinus and Pupienus, were then chosen by the Senate as the successors to the Gordians.

These two in turn chose the grandson of the elder Gordian as their Caesar and successor designate.

Before the issue could finally be joined between Balbinus, Pupienus and Gordian III, Maximinus and Maximus were assassinated by rebellious troops and it appeared that a measure of order would soon be restored.

Now, however, the Praetorians tired of Senatorial domination and in mid-year of 238 in turn put both Balbinus and Pupienus to death. Gordian III was then raised to the purple as sole Augustus and his reign continued until 244.

At first hand it would appear that the coins issued by three different men, all of whom bore the same name and titles, would be difficult to distinguish. Fortunately this is not the case and a little diligence will easily overcome the problem.

First of all, the reign of the two elder Gordiani (I and II) was so short that only a few coins came to be issued and these are quite scarce. The types used by Gordian I and II were also few. Since this is the case, a listing of all the types

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of the elder Gordians will serve to identify all their coins and a coin type not included in this list had to be attributed to Gordian III.

Only two obverse legends were used by the elder Gordians, these being:

(a) IMP M ANT GORDIANVS AFR AVG

(b) IMP CAES M ANT GORDIANVS AFR AVG[2]

In gold, there are no known coins for Gordian II and only one type for Gordian I this being an Aureus with obverse legend (b) and the reverse inscription, ROMAE AETERNAE.

None of the large silver coins known as "Antoniniani" were issued by the elder Gordians, their silver issues consisting entirely of denarii.[3] There are five types known of Gordian I all of which bear obverse legend (a) and have one of three reverse inscriptions, these being, PM TRP COS PP: SECVRITAS AVGG: and VIRTVS AVGG.[4]

GORDIAN I

GORDIAN II

GORDIAN III

Three types are known for Gordian II, these also bearing obverse legend (a) and being PROVIDENTIA AVGG, VICTORIA AVGG and VIRTVS AVGG.

In AES coinage, only sestertii are known for the elder Gordians and consequently any dupondius or As must be attributed to Gordian III. All Aes coins bear obverse legend (b) with one exception (noted below). There are five reverse inscriptions shared by the two emperors, these being, PROVIDENTIA AVGG SC, ROMAE AETERNAE SC, SECVRITAS AVGG SC, VICTORIA AVGG SC and VIRTVS AVGG SC. In addition to these five, there are two unique AES coins of Gordian I: a reverse legend of PM TRP COS PP SC and VIRT EXERCIT SC. It is the latter which has obverse inscription (a).

The most profitable method for discriminating between these three is to study the portraiture. Gordian III was 13 years old when raised to the status of Augustus and his youth is evident on his coins. Gordian I can often only be separated

(continued on page 18)

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3. Similar to above. M.48. Shade from EF 200.00
4. Similar to above. M.49. VF 185.00
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6. NERO. 63-68 AD. Bust r. laureate, slight beard. Rev. Jupiter seated l. holding sceptre and thunderbolt. RIC 45, C.118. Fine.
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8. ANTONINUS PIUS. 152-153 AD. Head laureate r. Rv. Emperor stdg. l. holding globe. RIC 226, C.310. VF, but has signs of being mounted 168.00
9. MARCUS AURELIUS.161-162 AD. Head r. bare; bust draped. Rv. Salus stdg. feeding snake twined around altar. RIC 53, C.553. Choice EF 285.00
10. HERACLIUS and HERACLIUS CONSTANTINE 613-630 AD. Bust of both facing. Rv. Cross. BMC 23. VF 32.50
11. ROMANUS II. 1028-1034 AD. Romanus stdg., facing, crowned by Virgin. Rv. Christ enthroned. BMC 1. EF 75.00
12. OMMAYADS of Egypt.637-968 AD. Gold dinar. Inscription on both sides. VF 22.50
13. Caliphs of Damascus.660-750 AD. Gold half dinar similar to above. About fine 17.50
14. Abbaside Caliphs. Almansur. 754-775 AD. Gold dinar, Bagdad mint. EF 27.50
15. Fatimids Caliphs.1036-1094 AD. Gold dinar. Egypt mint. VF .. 23.50
16. Fatimid of later period. Gold dinar. EF 23.50
17. Mamluk Sultans. 1279-1292 AD.Gold dinar. Damascus mint. Weak striking on one side, otherwise EF 18.50
18. East Indies Ducat. 1684. Fine 18.50

Coins Not Pictured

19. Sicily, Svracuse. 413-406 BC. Gold solitrae. Head of young river god. Rv. Free horse. VF-EF 220.00
20. King Agathocles. 317-319 BC. Gold drachm. Head of laureate Apollo. Rv. Biga driven by charioteer holding goad and reins. BMC 338. VF 235.00
21. Lesbos, Aeolis. 440-350 BC. Electrum hecte. Forepart of boar. Rv. Lion's head within square border. BMC 31. EF 235.00

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from his son by portraiture since the two men shared many of the same coin types.

Unfortunately the fact that Gordian I was very old is not reflected in his coin portraits. He is distinguished from his son by a much leaner appearance. A close comparison will show that Gordian II had much fuller features than his father.

One other distinguishing feature of the coins of Gordian III is the addition of the title "PIVS" to the obverse inscriptions. This honor was conferred on Gordian III by the Senate early in 240.

NOTES:

[1]Maximus is not supposed to have assumed the title of Augustus, however there is a sestertius of the year 237 or early 238 with the reverse legend. VICTORIA AVGVSTORVM. Mattingly (RIC, Vol 4:2. p 137) dismisses this as a formality rather than evidence that Maximus had been associated with his father in the imperial honors.

[2]The title Africanus (AFR) was not used by Gordian III.

[3]Gordian III on the other hand issued only a few rare denarii, most of his silver issues being the large coin.

[4]It should be noted that the plural, AVGG, would never appear on a coin of Gordian III who was sole emperor.

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THE EXQUISITE COINAGE OF OLIVER CROMWELL

by Neil Prescott

In the entire span of English history until 1965,* only one man, other than a member of a royal house, had succeeded in having his image put on a whole series of coins of the realm. Experts still argue whether these were ever in circulation, and if so for how long. "The crownes of Cromwell are now sold, it seems, for 25s. and 30s. a-piece;" so wrote Pepys in his Diary under the date March 9, 1662, not two years after the restoration of the monarchy. There was reason for this.

Cromwell's coins were designed so beautifully that there are those who hold that there are none better in the entire run of the English coinage. William Wyon, himself a great engraver of a later time—he worked on the coinage for William IV—said of them that they "are admirable for the truth of resemblance to individual nature. Altogether, this series of coins presents to us some of the most beautiful specimens that are to be found . . . combining,with the most exquisite workmanship, the mechanical advantages of the mill and screw, introduced about this time." They were made by Peter Blondeau, a skilled and inventive man who had learnt his trade in France.

VERTUE'S TRIBUTE

The artist responsible to Cromwell was Thomas Simon (c. 1623-1665), who, with the help of his brother Abraham, produced a distinguished series of coins, medals and seals until he was supplanted in the early years of the reign of Charles II. So good were his designs that in 1753 George Vertue devoted a quarto to their description. Finest of all perhaps was the "reward" designed after the Battle of Dunbar in 1650, to do which Simon travelled to Scotland to model the victorious general from the life. This "reward" was given to all ranks, the only official token distributed so widely until the Waterloo medal of a later century.

A further circumstance gives interest to Cromwellian coins. They were minted not in the Tower but at Drury House in the Strand, partly from bullion taken from Spanish treasure ships by Sir Richard Stayner, after an action which he fought off Cadiz in 1656.

The coins were struck in a least seven denominations: there was a 50-shilling piece; a 20-shilling piece or broad; and a 10-shilling piece or half broad, which were in gold, and of the finest quality. In silver were the crown, the half crown, the shilling and the sixpence. The crown and half crown bore on their edges the Latin legend *Has Nisi Periturus Mihi*

Adimat Nemo, which may be said to signify: Let no one remove these letters unless about to die—a warning to clippers. The crown was fine enough to inspire the Dutch to make a copy in Holland, examples of which are found in gilt.

Cromwellian coins bear one of two dates, 1656 or 1658, the year of the Protector's death. The coins seldom show signs of wear, a fact which probably indicates that they were cherished as mementoes of a dramatic pause or episode in the history of English government. Thus, while the indifferent coins authorized for issue by the Commonwealth (which for the first time bore legends in English) were "called in" by royal edict soon after the Restoration, those which bore Cromwell's image were not mentioned in the proclamation.

The story did not end till the time of George II, when an official of the Mint, Tanner by name, got hold of some of Simon's punches, a number of which are in Mint possession still, struck some coins as curiosities. A quantity were dispersed, in various denominations, mostly in silver. The fact that they were produced at all is probably more astonishing than that they were made indifferently. They rank as numismatic asides, a label which may indeed be applied to the whole range. It may seem odd that Cromwell's coins should be so fine, when his popular reputation is for being an enemy of the arts. Actually, he was nothing of the kind: but he lacked the training and opportunities of the sovereign he displaced.

*Crowns honoring Sir Winston Churchill were issued this year.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A real wealth of information on the coinage of Oliver Cromwell is contained in the work of Henry William Henfrey, *Numismata Cromwelliana or the Medallic History of Oliver Cromwell illustrated by his coins, medals and seals*, London 1877. Valid for reference are also the articles by T. H. B. Graham, "The Re-coinage of 1696-1697," in *Numismatic Chronicle*, vol. VI, Series IV, pp. 358-384, and "Cromwell's Silver Coinage," in *Numismatic Chronicle*, vol. VIII, Series IV, pp. 62-79.

NOTICE: Mr. Charles Colbert wishes to purchase or borrow 35 mm slides of Roman Imperial women. He will photocopy and return any sent. These are for use in a lecture scheduled for February. His address is c/o Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387

BOOK REVIEWS

AND NOTES FROM OTHER PERIODICALS

Aline Abaccherli Boyce, Festal and Dated Coins of the Roman Empire: Four Papers *ANM* 153. American Numismatic Society, New York 1965.

The author presents four papers in this monograph, each of which began as a short article on a recent accession of the Society, and was originally intended for the ANS series of such articles, *Museum Notes*. In researching each coin, the author was led to consider it as part of a larger series which needed greater amplification than would have been permitted within the format of *Museum Notes*.

The author does not attempt to draw conclusions but rather presents each coin and the series of which it is a part in the historical and numismatic background.

The four papers are: "A New Augustan Aureus of 17 BC," "The Dated Coins of Pompeiopolis," "The Ninth Consulship of Diocletian and the Consular Reverse" and "A New Solidus of Theodosius II and other Vota Solidi of the Period." John E. Hartmann

* * *

Joseph Berg, "Do Coins Disprove Constantine's Christianity?," *Numismatic Scrapbook*, October 1965.

In a sense this article is guilty of grinding the same old corn inasmuch as the subject of Constantine's alleged conversion has been a matter of learned dispute for two generations. The author does, however, rest his conclusions with the consensus of scholars: that whatever the emperor's religious feelings might have been, they were not permitted to interfere with the affairs of state. He also correctly points out that the pagan types continued in use throughout the reign and the alleged symbols of Christianity found on his coins can not be firmly demonstrated.

This is not a bad short popularization of the subject although the author's acquaintance with ancient religions leaves much to be desired.

Julian Carr

* * *

Philip Grierson, "A Supposed Byzantine Coin Die" and J. R. Jones, "Cavino's Imitations of Roman Coins," *Numismatic Circular*, Vol. LXXIII, No. 11, November 1965.

These two short papers are each worthy of note. Mr. Grierson has re-examined a pair of supposed dies which were attributed by C. C. Vermeule as of sixth century Byzantine origin. The major interest raised by these was their being hinged, a technique not thought to have been introduced into coin manufacture until a later period. Mr. Grierson demonstrates that these dies are not coin dies and that consequently, barring other evidence, we must still conclude that at this time coins were being struck from individual dies.

The recent reprinting of R. H. Lawrence's book, The Paduans: Medals by Giovanni Cavino has again directed attention to these pieces. Lawrence and others have assumed that Cavino struck his medals as works of art using ancient Roman coins as models. In this paper Mr. Jones questions this assumption and Cavino's motives.

He points out that the Renaissance was a period when ancient artifacts, including coins, were collected and prized. Then as now, the scarcer coins had greater value. Cavino, states the author, made a majority of his medals of obscure and rare emperors, men such as Otho and Didius Julianus. Mr. Jones then questions if this is not evidence that Cavino made his medals to deceive his contemporaries

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Maximinus I 235-238 Denarius, Laur. head/Emperor between two standards holding sceptre, Cohen 55, Very Fine 8.95

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Jacqueline Chittenden, "Pythagoras and the Incuse Coinage of Magna Graecia," *Numismatic Review*, Vol. VI, No. 3, Coin Galleries, New York, 1965.

Many attempts have been made to explain the incuse series of coins which were omitted from the Greek cities in southern Italy during the fifth century BC. Thus far, despite researches by Milne, Sutherland, Noe and Kraay, no conclusive evidence or argument has been presented on this subject. The author here proposes to attribute the style to Pythagoras, but her presentation lacks conviction.

Pythagoras is thought to have been dead by the onset of the Persian Wars, while the dating of the incuse coins seems more and more to be moved to a time after the Persian war. The relative scarcity of the incuse issues from prosperous cities whose regular double relief coins are as prevalent as might be expected argues for an even shorter period of time for their issuance than has previously been supposed.

The author also proposes that the incusi must have been struck from hinged dies, a preposterous notion (See review of Mr. Grierson's paper above). The coins were surely struck with the dies in careful alignment and it is quite probable that the care required in the production of an incuse coin militated against a long duration of the series in the face of increased coinage demands.

The attempt to relate Pythagoras to this intriguing series of coins, while tempting, cannot be taken seriously by numismatists. JOHN E. HARTMANN

* * *

Rudolfo Burgos, "Sestertius Shows Coliseum at Inaugural," *World Coins*, Vol. II, No. 24, December 1965.

This is an interesting article on a coin where the Flavian Amphitheatre, more commonly known as the Coliseum, appears as a type. Since the structure is perhaps the best known standing ancient building, this article dealing with its appearance on a coin should be of interest to the lay public.

There are several features of the article which perplex this reviewer. While the author gives the impression that he has carefully researched the coin and the historical background, he fails to mention that a very similar type is listed in Cohen (2nd ed. Vol. 1, p. 461, 400) and also the ROMAN IMPERIAL COINS, (Vol. II, p. 129, 110). The author also fails to point out that there is a "Paduan" imitation of this coin type.

The author apparently thinks nothing of inscriptional peculiarities, viz: TI rather than T for Titus, the lack of the title AVG, the SC on obverse, etc. His constant reference to the Consulship being "conferred by the Senate" reveals acquaintance with documents not known by other historians or a superficial knowledge of Roman history. He also fails to point out that the obverse is most unusual, giving the impression that the coin might be a mule or spurious.

This reviewer tends to believe that all pieces which represent the Coliseum as a type during the reign of Titus are spurious, but he lacks conclusive evidence to demonstrate this. The reader may judge from the evidence related. It would seem that a judicious numismatist would be most careful in his handling of this material, a care certainly lacking in this paper. JOHN E. HARTMANN

* * *

EDITOR'S NOTE: The appearance of a series of questions and answers on ancient coins in a popular coin newspaper last summer has disturbed many of our readers. A number of gross and unforgive-

able errors occurred which can be laid only to the author's ignorance of his subject. Further comment on this is obviated by a thorough treatment done by our colleague, Mr. James Risk in the current issue (Vol. VI, No. 3) of the *Numismatic Review*. We strongly suggest that our readers apprise themselves of Mr. Risk's editorial, "The Numismatic Expert."

* * *

The Quarterly publication of the American Numismatic Society NUMISMATIC LITERATURE, has just been released by the ANS for October 1965. This publication is the only bibliographic source of all material pertinent to numismatics published within the preceding three months. While it is received by all Society members, it is also available to the public at an annual rate of $4.00.

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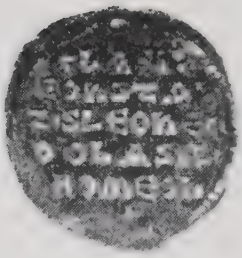

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NUMISMATIC PRIMER

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The preparation of the special Byzantine and Greek Imperial issues of the *Turtle* in the last three months of 1965 has delayed this second portion of basic metrology until this time. Subsequent to the first part (Aug. 1965) the American Numismatic Society has released monograph #154 by Earle Caley which contains a complete set of tables. This publication is available from the Society and would be useful to all our readers.

This tabulation of conversion factors (not contained in Mr. Caley's monograph) is still of considerable use both to beginners and to experienced people. All factors are expressed as multipliers and through the use of a slide rule or calculating machine, any metrological factors can quickly be converted to any other system.

* * *

TO CONVERT:

1. Grains to Grams	multiply by	.0648
2. Grams to Grains	multiply by	16.4324

* * *

The Roman libra (327.69 grams) is divided into Scripulae (Scruples). There are 288 scripulae of 1.138 grams each in the Roman pound.

3. Scruples to grams	multiply by	1.138
4. Grams to scruples	multiply by	.879

* * *

The avoir du pois system is that which is commonly used in the United States. It consists of a pound of 7000 grains divided into 16 ounces of 437.5 grains each.

TO CONVERT:

5. Pounds (ADP) to Grams	multiply by	453.6
6. Grams to pounds (ADP)	multiply by	.0022
7. Ounces (ADP) to grams	multiply by	28.35
8. Grams to ounces (ADP)	multiply by	.0353

* * *

A system frequently encountered in numismatics is that of Troy weights. This is primarily a system used by those who deal in precious metals to express their weights and since coins

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are of gold and silver there was at one time a tendency to express their weights in ounces Troy. The Troy pound contains 5760 grains and is divided into 12 ounces of 480 grains each.

To Convert:

9. Pounds (troy) to grams	multiply by	373.25
10. Grams to pounds (troy)	multiply by	.0027
11. Ounces (troy) to grams	multiply by	31.10
12. Grams to ounces (troy)	multiply by	.0322

* * *

The system adopted by the British Museum for describing coin modules is decimal inches, the inch in this case being the familiar one in current use. The decimal inch is divided into tenths and a coin cannot be measured with a ruler which is divided into halves, fourths and so on. A decimal inch can easily be converted into millimeters by simple multiplication, a conversion which cannot be performed on inches divided into the familiar fractions.

To Convert:

13. Inches (including decimal parts) to millimeters	multiply by	25.4
14. Millimeters to inches (decimal)	multiply by	.039

Mionnet's scale is sometime encountered in older works. This is a non-linear scale which cannot be converted to either inches or millimeters with a single factor. Hence the following equivalency table of Mionnet numbers to millimeters must be used:

MIONNET NUMBER	MILLIMETERS
1.	9.0
2.	12.5
3.	15.0
4.	18.0
5.	21.5
6.	24.0
7.	26.5
8.	29.0
9.	32.0
10.	35.5
11.	38.0
12.	40.5

Mionnet's numbers continue on to 19 (78.5 mm) but these

large sizes are not encountered in ancient coins.

* * *

Fineness of gold and silver is now expressed in a decimal fraction of 1 carried out to three places. Thus absolutely pure metal would be 1.000 fine, sterling silver would be .925 fine and the silver used in US coins up until last year would be .900 fine. The exact weight of pure metal in a US coin would then be the coin's total weight multiplied by .900.

The older system of carats, still used to some extent for gold, is now falling into disuse. 24 carats equal 1.000 fine. Each carat equals .4167 of fineness. Thus 12 carat gold is .500 fine (half alloy) or the familiar 14 carat is .583 fine.

To Convert:

15. Carats to fineness	multiply by .4167
16. Fineness to carats	multiply by 24.000

A convenient mnemonic device for common ancient coin modules relates them to US coins as follows:

1. Drachma and Denarius	about dime size, 18 mm
2. Antoninianus	about nickel size, 21 mm
3. Tetradrachm and AS	about quarter size, 24 mm
4. Sestertius	about half dollars size, 30 mm

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CLUB NEWS

Calvin C. Woods (449 Meadow Lane North, Minneapolis, Minnesota) has been appointed to act as coordinator of local chapters for the ACCA. With the assistance of Mrs. Woods, who is also the secretary of the club, a number of steps have been taken to provide closer liaison with active chapters and assist new chapters now in the process of formation.

It has been determined that the present membership of the club would permit at least 35 chapters to be formed in various areas throughout the country. To date there are 13 active affiliates, these being: Minnesota, Massachusetts, western New York, Nebraska, Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Louisiana, Tampa, San Francisco, Toledo, Wichita and Greater New York City. This leaves 21 other areas in the country where affiliates could and ought to be formed.

A list of members in each of these areas has been prepared. Where active chapters have been organized, the list has already been placed in the hands of the local corresponding officer. In those areas where chapters are not yet active, people are being solicited to participate in their formation.

Soon to be inaugurated will be an occasional letter from the coordinator to the secretaries pro-tem of each group. This circular will contain news of what others are doing, suggestions and projects in which members can participate. Several club projects, such as the development of a slide program and the training of speakers to talk to lay groups will be promoted primarily through the local affiliates.

Mr. Woods has also prepared a complete package of material which will be forwarded to new chapters as they are formed. This contains suggestions and experience derived from those chapters already active.

The intent of the national organization is to provide a continuous close liaison with the affiliated groups throughout the nation.

* * *

The three new chapters formed since the list published in the August issue of the Turtle and their pro-tem officers are:

Greater New York City
Mr. Harold Rupel
420 East 105th Street
New York 10019

Toledo, Ohio
Robert Mattison
4042 Briarcrest Road
Toledo, Ohio 43625

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Mr. Robert Grossman
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